

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /058 W

-----270601Z 058296 /17

R 261845Z JAN 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2872

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, EEC, EAID

SUBJECT: ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTO VISITS EC COMMISSION

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 696 (NOTAL), (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS A-541 (NOTAL),

(C) 76 EC BRUSSELS A-501

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTO OF ZAIRE PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE EC COMMISSION ON JANUARY 21 WHERE HE MET WITH PRESIDENT JENKINS AND COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON. COMMISSION OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT MOBUTO REVIEWED THE EC INDICATIVE AID PROGRAM TO ZAIRE (SEE REF. B) AND INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION. CHEYSSON OUTLINED SEVERAL EC PROPOSED REGIONAL PROJECTS WHICH WOULD AFFECT ZAIRE: 1) A \$1 MILLION ENGINEERING STUDY OF THE IUZIZI POWER STATION NO. 2; THIS STUDY WOULD LEAD TO ABOUT \$11 MILLION OF EC FINANCING; AND 2) A \$11 MILLION TRANSPORTATION PROJECT TO DEVELOP PORT FACILITIES ALONG LAKES VICTORIA AND TRNGANYIKA AND A RAIL HEAD, AND TO IMPROVE RAIL AND ROAD LINKS WITH DAR ES SALAAM

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PORT.

2. MOBUTO ASKED FOR EC HELP FOR THE KINSHASA-ILEBO ROAD, BUT COMMISSION OFFICIALS MADE NO COMMITMENTS. CHEYSSON ENCOURAGED THE COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION TO DEVELOP A MASTER TRANSPORTATION PLAN IN ORDER TO COMPLEMENT AND INTEGRATE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

ACTIVITIES. (COMMENT: COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSING A MEETING BETWEEN THESE COUNTRIES AND MAJOR DONORS TO DISCUSS SUCH A PLAN.)

3. MOBUTO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN CIEC. HE CHIDED THE EC FOR WAITING ON THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION BEFORE PROPOSING ANY NEW INITIATIVES TO BREAK THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN CIEC. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COPPER AGREEMENT TO HELP STABILIZE COPPER PRICES AND THEREBY IMPROVE THE GOZ'S ABILITY TO PLAN ITS ECONOMY. COMMISSION OFFICIALS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THIS NEED, BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

4. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ADD THAT MOBUTO IS MEETING WITH A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EUROPEAN INVESTORS IN ZAIRE. THIS IS AN EFFORT TO ASSURE THEM OF GOZ INTENTIONS TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY AND TO OFFER APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO PRIVATE INVESTORS.

5. MOBUTO WAS PLEASED TO BE THE FIRST HEAD OF STATE TO BE GREETED BY THE NEW EC COMMISSION. HE REPORTEDLY ASSURED THE EC OF HIS CONTINUING SUPPORT AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO HAVE OAU TO EMULATE EC INTEGRATION EFFORTS.
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